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TH602.NLS

5-3-1 Bird 4.6 -4.7.4

Questions

1. Why was the ascension of Jesus significant?
2. What does the acronym HANDS stand for?
3. What does the acronym WISDOM stand for?
4. Why was the humanity of Christ necessary?
5. What does the hypostatic union of Christ refer to?

Answers

1. The ascension was significant because Jesus needed to be able to send the Holy Spirit, afterwards there is the expectation for the worship of and witness to Jesus, means he is exalted to God's right hand and has divine authority, shows that God has placed a human being as vice-regent of the universe, believers now share in the reign of Christ, and he is continuing to fulfill his priestly work of mediation and intercession for believers.
2. The acronym HANDS is to help remind us of the deity of Jesus: he shares in the honors, attributes, names, and deeds of God, and the seat of God's throne.
3. The acronym WISDOM reminds us that Jesus receives the worship of God, participates in the identity of God, shares the seat of God's throne, performs the deeds of God, partakes in divine ontology, and engages in the mission of God.
4. The physical humanity of Christ was essential because it showed that he is our personal representative, our mediator, he fulfills the original purpose of God in that humanity should rule over creation, our example of faithfulness to God, and finally the human Jesus shows us that God can sympathize with us.
5. The hypostatic union refers to the divine and human natures of Christ are a personal and distinct union of the two natures within a single person.

Terms

1. kerygma – an apostolic proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ.
2. Docetism – denial that Jesus had a physical body
3. hypostasis – the substance or essential nature of an individual

Summary

In this section Bird teaches about the necessity of the ascension as in direct relation to the resurrection, you cannot have one without the other. While the resurrection brought hope of victory over death, the ascension brought the hope of Christ's return. Bird also covered the identity of Jesus Christ. He is the God-Man, fully divine, fully human. The fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures, the divine answer to solve the dilemma of God interacting and having a relationship with mankind once again.